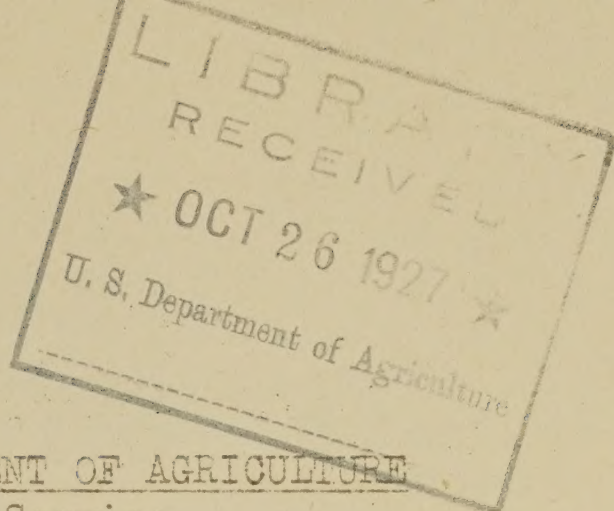


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

GOOD WOOL

An exhibit proving conclusively that it pays to produce good wool rather than poor wool.

Specifications.

Floor space required - width -----25 feet.

depth----- 3 feet.

Wall space required-----None.

Shipping weight-----1502 lbs.

Electrical requirements---

110 volt A C or D. C. current

200 watts needed for lights.

GOOD WOOL

How It Looks.

The scenic feature of the exhibit consists of an illuminated, painted western scene of a band of sheep on the range and nearby the sheep herder's camp wagon. Two full sized, painted sheep cutouts representing good and poor quality, placed on stands near the front of the booth, fit in with the other facts contrasted in the exhibit.

There are also displayed good and poor fleeces with a statement of the difference in price they would bring on the market; greatly magnified fibers from good and poor fleeces; wool properly and improperly marked; and other things of general interest to the wool grower.

What It Tells.

The production of good wool requires the right kind of sheep breeding, feeding and management. This exhibit shows two fleeces of wool just as they came from the sheep's back. At the spectator's left is a ten-pound fleece of good wool. Directly below this good fleece will be seen a good ewe that is growing choice wool of this kind. Just above this fleece is a jar containing 5.8 pounds of grease and dirt which is the approximate amount of grease and dirt in this good fleece. Beside this jar is 4.2 pounds of good scoured wool, the weight of clean wool that would be secured from this tenpound fleece. At the other side of this exhibit is a seven-pound fleece of inferior wool shown over the pen that contains a type of ewe on which such wool is growing. Immediately above this inferior fleece are shown 2.5 pounds of clean, short, inferior wool and 4.5 pounds of grease and dirt, which are about the amounts of these materials that would come from this fleece.

From these figures it will be seen that the good fleece would have a scouring shrinkage of 58 per cent and the inferior fleece slightly more than 64 percent. The long staple, strong wool in the good fleece is the kind required for the best durable worsted cloth. On the July, 1925, Boston market this choice wool was worth \$1.40 per pound on a clean basis or 58.3 cents per pound unscoured. This good fleece would therefore be worth \$5.88. The inferior fleece contains short, weak fibers not suitable for the manufacture of the most durable clothing and for this reason wool of this kind is not so much in demand as the wool in the good fleece. When the good wool was worth \$1.40 a pound scoured, this short, weak wool was selling on the same market for about \$1.20 a pound clean, or slightly less than 43 cents a pound in the grease. Thus, the inferior fleece would be worth only \$3.00 or \$2.88 less than the good fleece. This difference may seem rather small but on a band of 1,000 ewes it would amount to \$2,880 or the cost of hiring about three or four good sheep herders for a year.

When breeding for good wool:

- (1) Use good purebred rams that shear heavy fleece of choice wool.
- (2) Cull the ewes that shear light fleeces of inferior wool.
- (3) Avoid frequent changes in breeds.

When feeding for good wool:

- (1) Provide plenty of palatable and nutritious grazing.
- (2) Keep ewes gaining during the winter when good grazing is not available, by feeding good legume hay.
- (3) Insure strength of fiber by avoiding periods of starvation.
- (4) Change rations gradually, especially when starting on grain feeding.

When managing for good wool:

- (1) Shear the sheep on a clean, well-swept floor.
- (2) Avoid second cuts when shearing.
- (3) Roll fleeces clean side out and tie with paper twine.
- (4) Store the wool in a clean, dry place.
- (5) Brand sheep with paint that will scour.
- (6) Guard against foreign material such as burrs, chaff, etc., getting into the wool.

Where To Get Information.

Ask for Department Bulletin 206 entitled, "The Wool Grower and the Wool Trade," or Farmers' Bulletin 840 entitled, "Farm Sheep Raising For Beginners."
